

Application No. 09/867,642

Amendment dated October 16, 2006

Reply to Office action of June 16, 2006

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OCT 16 2006Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented). A method of supporting an electronic component, which comprises:

providing an online catalogue with electronic components;

storing a computer-executable file with a standalone simulator for simulating a circuit behavior of a specific one of the electronic components;

linking the computer-executable file to the specific electronic component in the online catalogue and enabling download of the computer-executable file to a customer and enabling the customer to execute a simulation with the specific electronic component in standalone mode.

Claim 2 (original). The method according to claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises archiving the computer-executable file and prompting the customer to extract and install the computer-executable file prior to executing the simulation.

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Claim 3 (original). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises storing simulation models for the electronic components in the online catalogue and enabling the customer to download either a simulation model or a standalone simulator linked to a given one of the electronic components.

Claim 4 (original). A virtual product support system, comprising:

a computer-readable file with a listing of electronic components;

a storage system storing computer-executable files with standalone simulators for simulating an electronic behavior of the electronic components;

a computer-readable file with a listing of the standalone simulators available in said storage system and with linking information between individual standalone simulators and individual electronic components; and

a network connection for providing access to said listing of standalone simulators and for enabling download, by a customer, of individual simulators via said network connection.

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Claim 5 (original). The virtual product support system according to claim 4, wherein said network connection is an Internet connection and said listing of the standalone simulators is hyperlinked to said computer-executable files.

Claim 6 (new). The method according to claim 1, which comprises the following steps, to be performed by a customer:

downloading the computer-executable file; and

executing the simulation with the specific electronic component in standalone mode.

Claim 7 (new). The method according to claim 6, wherein, during the executing step, the customer is disconnected from a download site providing the computer-executable file.

Claim 8 (new). The virtual product support system according to claim 4, wherein the computer-executable files stored on said storage system are configured with computer-executable code designed, when executed on a standalone computer, to simulate an electronic behavior of a respective electronic component in standalone mode and without a real-time connection to a server.